

Fw: *LOUISIANA OFFSHORE OIL PORT SUSPENDS CRUDE OIL DELIVERIES TO REFINERIES**

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***LOUISIANA OFFSHORE OIL PORT SUSPENDS CRUDE OIL DELIVERIES TO REFINERIES

The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) has halted crude oil deliveries to refiners from its onshore facilities, it said Wednesday, as it rides out Hurricane Isaac.

Offloading of tankers was suspended Monday morning.

"When conditions improve, facility assessments will be conducted and plans will be implemented to bring the operation back online," the port said in a statement.

The Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability said on Tuesday that LOOP's offshore operations could resume by late Thursday or early Friday morning.

LOOP is the single largest point of entry for crude oil coming into the U.S., capable of offloading Ultra Large Crude Carriers (ULCCs) and Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs), as well as smaller tankers.

Its onshore storage facility in Clovelly, La., can hold up to 50 million barrels of oil, which besides imported grades includes output from deepwater Gulf of Mexico rigs. Four pipelines connect Clovelly to refineries in Louisiana

and elsewhere on the Gulf Coast. LOOP also operates the LOCAP pipeline that connects LOOP to the Capline pipeline at St. James, La.

The Capline, which terminates in Patoka, Ill., was shut down by operator Shell Oil on Sunday night ahead of Hurricane Isaac's arrival.

--Beth Heinsohn, bheinsohn@opisnet.com

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